

sheet, the light diffusing sheet has a haze value of 10% or more and shifts the direction of the maximum intensity direction of the second diffused light toward the direction of the normal standing on the light outputting surface of the diffusing sheet by virtue of the rougher light outputting surface, a polarized beam splitting sheet which receives the second diffused light from the light outputting surface of the light diffusing sheet, through which one polarized light component of the second diffused light is transmitted, and on which the other polarized light component is reflected, and a light reflecting sheet which is arranged on the back face of the lightconductor and is for reflecting a light into the lightconductor, and the liquid crystal panel is arranged at the light outputting surface side of the polarized beam splitting sheet of the back light device.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,156 to Heembrock (hereinafter "Heembrock"); claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Heembrock and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,748,369 to Yokota (hereinafter "Yokota"); claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Heembrock and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,456 to Broer et al. (hereinafter "Broer"); and claims 1, 4-6, 9-11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over WO 95/17692 to Ouderkirk (hereinafter "Ouderkirk") in view of

U.S. Patent No. 5,143,433 to Farrell (hereinafter "Farrell") and Heembrock. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied art discloses that the light fusing sheet has a haze value of 10% or more, as claimed in claims 1 and 6. Instead, all of the applied art is completely devoid of this feature.

Because the applied art is devoid of this feature, none of the applied art can provide advantages of the invention. For example, as disclosed at page 14, lines 15-22 of the specification, if the haze value is within the claimed range, i.e., 10% or more, the action that the maximum intensity direction of the diffused light from the lightconductor 14 is shifted nearer to the normal standing on the light outputting surface 16A becomes great.

Thus, no motivation exists to modify the applied art to make up for this deficiency. In fact, if it had been obvious to modify the applied art to make up for this deficiency, then one of ordinary skill in the art would have done so to achieve the above advantage.

Further, none of the applied art discloses a first diffused light having a peak oblique to the normal standing on the light outputting surface therefrom which is the front face, and a second diffused light having a directivity from a light outputting surface of the diffusing light, as claimed in claims 1 and 6.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-5 and 7-12, which depend from claims 1 and 6, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

II. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action also rejects claims 1-12 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent

No. 6,104,455. A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted with this Amendment to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:EDM/gam

Attachments:

Appendix
Petition for Extension of Time
Terminal Disclaimer

Date: November 6, 2001

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

1. (~~Four~~Five Times Amended) A back light device comprising:

a light source;

a lightconductor in a substantial plate form comprising a front face, a back face and side end faces,

light radiated from the light source and made incident on the one of the side end faces being output as a first diffused light having a peak oblique to the normal standing on a light outputting surface therefrom which is the front face;

at least one light diffusing sheet for receiving, on its face, the first diffused light output from the light outputting surface of the lightconductor, and outputting a second diffused light having a directivity from a light outputting surface of the diffusing sheet opposite to the face of the diffusing sheet, the light outputting surface of the light diffusing sheet being rougher than the face of the at least one light diffusing sheet, the light diffusing sheet has a haze value of 10% or more and shifts the direction of the maximum intensity of the second diffused light toward the direction of the normal standing on the light outputting surface of the diffusing sheet by virtue of the rougher light outputting surface;

a polarized beam splitting sheet which receives the second diffused light from the light outputting surface of the light diffusing sheet, through which one polarized light component of the second diffused light is transmitted, and on which the other polarized light component is reflected; and

a light reflecting sheet which is arranged on the back face of the lightconductor and is for reflecting a light into the lightconductor.

6. (~~Four~~Five Times Amended) A back light device for a liquid crystal display apparatus comprising the back light device and a liquid crystal panel, wherein the back light device comprising a light source, a lightconductor in a substantial plate form comprising a front face, a back face and side end faces, light radiated from the light source and made incident on the one of the end side faces being output as a first diffused light having a peak oblique to the normal standing on a light outputting surface therefrom which is the front face, at least one light diffusing sheet for receiving, on its face, the first diffused light output from the light outputting surface of the lightconductor, and outputting a second diffused light, having a directivity from a light outputting surface of the at least one light diffusing sheet opposite to the face of the at least one light diffusing sheet, the light outputting surface of the at least one light diffusing sheet being rougher than the face of the at least one light diffusing sheet, the light diffusing sheet has a haze value of 10% or more and shifts the direction of the maximum intensity direction of the second diffused light toward the direction of the normal standing on the light outputting surface of the diffusing sheet by virtue of the rougher light outputting surface, a polarized beam splitting sheet which receives the second diffused light from the light outputting surface of the light diffusing sheet, through which one polarized light component of the second diffused light is transmitted, and on which the other polarized light component is reflected, and a light reflecting sheet which is arranged on the back face of the lightconductor and is for reflecting a light into the lightconductor, and the liquid crystal panel is arranged at the light outputting surface side of the polarized beam splitting sheet of the back light device.